

SECRET

270

21 July 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE RECORD

The following is a report covering the two year period during which [] was associated with the BGFIEND Project in Germany and Greece.

During this time [] was primarily responsible for the training of "Waahoos". However, in addition to training he had experience with and also observed many other activities in connection with the BGFIEND program in Germany and Greece.

It is felt that while the BGFIEND Project attained a certain degree of success since its conception, the fact remains there is room for improvement. []'s main experience centered on training, and most of the recommendations and criticisms deal with that phase of FIEND.

It is hoped that the BGFIEND section and the Agency will benefit from the experiences incurred by (), since he worked in conjunction with others to organize the first FIEND training site and helped train the first group of "Waahoos" in 1950 and remained with the Project until Departure for the ZI.

Therefore the following is a list of the various phases of BGFIEND with which () had intimate relations and is well qualified to report on:

1. American Personnel

One of the first questions asked concerning new trainees is, "What is their motivation?" Motivation is of extreme importance where trainees are concerned. In like manner all American agents sent to a theater of operations whereby they will be working closely with indigenous personnel who are to be trained and mounted on a mission, should be extremely motivated themselves if they are to give their maximum efforts in order to do the best job possible.

In the past () has had contact with American agents sent abroad to do a job, who had the impression that they were there for a sight-seeing tour. To some of these people, working with "Waahoos" was merely making a living. A few were opportunists whose main efforts were directed toward black market activities, women & alcohol.

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3828
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

SECRET

Copy 1315.16

SECRET

- 2 -

Some of these people were so lackadaisical that they desired to work only two hours a day which concerned their specialty only.

These criticisms have been brought out for several good reasons. When in the field there are many occasions when one must make personal sacrifices in order to facilitate the training of indigenous personnel.

It is true that the morale of American personnel should be good but the desires and comforts of our own people should be secondary to that of the trainees. It is they who place themselves in our hands knowing full well that because of our efforts they will live or die. Some Americans sent abroad should clearly realize and understand what their primary mission is. They should be prepared to make sacrifices. They should use all their experience and know-how to the fullest so that the trainee will benefit and be able to infiltrate a country, do the job assigned to him and come out alive.

Recruiting of trainees

In the past "Waahoos" have been recruited in a manner which left a great deal to be desired. Initially they were selected because they were un-desirables and certain politicians in the guard company wanted them out. In some cases men were sent from JBPARTSON to Wangness because they were on []'s black list. Finally our own people took a hand in the recruiting and processed them thru ZRELOPE. The latter proved more effective and the calibre of the trainees did improve.

However, [] feels that a higher calibre of trainee can be obtained if he is approached by our own people. It is felt that HTNEIGH be excluded altogether in the recruiting phase. Why not attempt the approach where by we try and make the higher type "Waahoos" buy what we are selling. Give it to them straight from the shoulder and let them know in advance the seriousness and danger involved.

Training Site

It is quite difficult to obtain the ideal training site. Absolute security is very difficult to maintain. In some instances an isolated area might be available. However, we must bear in mind that logistic support and communications create hardships if a remote area is to be selected.

An ideal training site is one which is removed from any town or village yet near enough so that usable roads are available and access to logistic support is feasible. Since most Europeans are accustomed to intrigue and are of a highly suspicious nature, using a training site in a town or village will eventually create interest and in due time this installation will be regarded as a local center of

SECRET

SECRET

- 3 -

attraction. There are presently in use by the Gabbie training Division in Germany at least six installations which are well known by the local populace as intelligence centers. This type of info is obtained by the German house-keeping personnel working at the training sites.

Complete and adequate training cannot be given at a training site itself. However, when suitable training areas are available trainees can be transported to said areas in a truck as was done at Wangness when trainees were moved out to the firing ranges.

Training Program

[] is in accord with []'s ideas concerning the type training that "Waahoos" should receive, however, it might be a good idea to cut down somewhat on some subjects and devote more time to others. For Example: [] feels that the time allotted to weapons training be decreased whereby the trainees receive training in the grease-gun, pistol, and hand grenade only.

It is felt that close combat could be cut out completely since the trainees will probably never be in a position where body contact with an enemy will take place.

[] firmly believes that more emphasis should be placed on agent training. Unfortunately in the past some of the "Waahoos" infiltrated have not been of a high calibre mentally speaking. However, most of them do possess enough native intelligence so that with patience and extra work we can teach them to use their wits, cunning and daring.

We should with all resources and know-how at our command enlarge our agent training program. If security permits we should actually take trainees into a town or city and conduct surveillance, contact and letter drop problems. [] is of the opinion that every group of agents infiltrated should receive secret ink writing instructions.

Training Aids

Although some training aids were at our disposal at the training sites in Germany, they were not adequate. It was necessary to use some ingenuity and have them constructed on the German economy. Moreover borrowing graphic training aids and training films from the U.S. Army is not satisfactory, since they can be obtained for only a limited period of time and on some occasions are unobtainable due to their being used elsewhere.

If at all possible we should have cut-away models of weapons, hand grenades and booby traps. Also for more efficient map reading

SECRET

- 4 -

training we should have a terrain relief model showing contours and terrain features.

Instructors

In the past some instructors arriving at the training sites were not thoroughly qualified to teach subjects for which they had experience. Apparently at one time or another these men knew their specialty well but since in some cases years had elapsed since they had employed said specialty. The quality of their work was not good.

It has been necessary to teach instructors in the field. This is all well and good, but when time is of the essence and a new instructor must be used almost as soon as he arrives on the scene, this handicaps the new instructor and the training program itself.

[] recommends if at all possible, a new man should be sent to one of the schools in the ZI for a refresher course prior to his departing for the field. The schooling would make him better qualified and also give him confidence in his ability to teach.

Operational Equipment

[] feels that the HTREGALE map used for training at the school and which is also issued to the groups to be mounted on a mission is unsatisfactory.

In the past we have had difficulties teaching this map because it is black and white and does not clearly show the various symbols and terrain features found on all maps. Also it does not show the declension scale which is important. Many times we have used this type map which was quite faded and we did have difficulty distinguishing such things as roads, rivers and other symbols. If it can be obtained, the best map would be one which is colored thus allowing the trainees to read them faster and understand them more clearly. If possible a rubberized map such as used by U.S. Airbourne troops during the war would be perfect. This type map is water-proof and has a much longer life than the paper map.

It is very difficult to obtain a satisfactory compass in Germany or Greece. In fact its impossible. The best compass available is the U.S. Army Lensatic. If these could be sterilized and put into use it would solve the compass problem.

Indigenous House-Keeping Personnel

In all cases whenever German, Greek or any other foreign nationals are to be employed for house-keeping duties or work of any

SECRET

SECRET

- 5 -

nature at a training site they should be completely cleared before being exposed to a school which has trainees on hand. Such was not the case at several of the Gabbie training division sites. Presently at the training site where three Waahos are undergoing W/T training a German maid and fireman have been working for some time without a security clearance ever having been made. Also presently working at TP weapon are several Germans who have never been cleared. These same Germans have observed "Stair", "Widow" and "Waahoo" personnel in various phases of training at TP weapon.

Conclusion

There are many issues concerning the Gabbie training division which [] capable of enlarging upon but since he has always been a BGFIEND man and devoted most of his time and efforts to FIEND he will refrain from doing so.

It is not necessary to have a large staff at a training site. If the instructors are conscientious and sincerely desire to work a training school can be successfully operated by five people. This figure is adequate regardless of whether there are 3 or 30 students on hand. Qualified instructors can handle several subjects and also accomplish necessary administrative details.

[] strongly urges that when trainees are recruited they be completely exempt from physical handicaps. In the past this problem has created severe headaches. Moreover men have become rejects because of physical disabilities thereby creating disposal problems. A recruit absolutely must have a complete physical examination prior to his arrival at the training site.

In the past prospective trainees have been given cock and bull stories at JBPARSON concerning their future work. This was bad because they eventually discovered what they had gotten into. The result being we had malcontents on our hands.

The men to be recruited should be told the truth as far as security permits concerning their future mission. They respect us more for it and the chances of developing malcontents during training would be slim.

All in all [] feels that BGFIEND, considering the problems of personnel, communications and other, has done remarkably well. By devoting all our efforts toward closer coordination and cooperation between everyone concerned in the field and by imparting all our experience to newcomers in the field the net result should be one of harmony, efficiency and more important a better trained and equipped Waahoo.

SECRET